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On Campus with Max Shulman

(Author of "Rally Round the Flag, Boys" and "Barefoot Boy With Cheek".)

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HOW SMALL CAN YOU GET?

Today let us address ourselves to a question that has long rocked and rolled the academic world: Is a student better off at a small college than at a large college?

To answer this question it is necessary first to define terms. What, exactly, do we mean by a *small* college? Well *sir*, some say that in order to be called truly small, a college should have an enrollment of not more than four students.

I surely have no quarrel with this statement; a four-student college must unequivocally be called small. Indeed, I would even call it *inline* if I knew what *inline* meant. But I submit there is such a thing as being too small. Take, for instance, a recent unfortunate event at Crimscott A and M.

Crimscott A and M, situated in a pleasant valley nestled between Philadelphia and Salt Lake City, was founded by

What, exactly, do we mean by a small college?

A. and M. Crimscott, two brothers who left Ireland in 1625 to escape the potato famine of 1841. As a result of their foresight, the Crimscott brothers never went without potatoes for one single day of their lives—and mighty grateful they were! One night, full of gratitude after a wholesome meal of French fries, cottage fries, hash browns, and au gratin, they decided to show their appreciation to this bountiful land of potatoes by endowing a college. But their generosity contained one stipulation: the enrollment of the college must never exceed four students. They felt that only by keeping the school this small could each student be assured of the personalized attention, the camaraderie, the esprit, that is all too often lacking in larger institutions of higher learning.

Well sir, things went along swimmingly until one Saturday a few years ago. On this day Crimscott had a football game scheduled against Minnesota, its traditional rival. Football, as you can well imagine, was something of a problem at Crimscott, what with only four undergraduates in the entire college. It was easy enough to muster a backfield, but to find a good line—or even a bad line—baffled some of the most resourceful coaching minds in the nation.

Well sir, on the morning of the big game against Minnesota, its traditional rival, a capricious fate dealt Crimscott a cruel blow—in fact, four cruel blows. Sigafoos, the quarterback, woke up that morning with an impacted incisor. Wriebards, the fullback, flunked his taxidermy exam and was declared ineligible. Beerbohm-Tree, the wingback-tailback, got his necktie caught in his espresso machine. Yuld, the *full*back, was stolen by gypsies.

Consequently, none of the Crimscott team showed up at the football game, and Minnesota, its traditional rival, was able to score almost at will. Crimscott was so riven after this humiliating defeat that they immediately broke off football relations with Minnesota, its traditional rival. This later became known as the Sacco-Vanzetti Case.

So you can see how only four students might be too meagre an enrollment. The number that I personally favor is twenty. Why? you ask. Because, I reply, when you have twenty students and one of them opens a pack of Marlboro Cigarettes, there are enough to go around for everybody, and no one has to be deprived of Marlboro's flavor, of Marlboro's filter, of Marlboro's staunch and steadfast companionship, and as a result you have a student body that is brimming with sweet content and amity and harmony and concord and togetherness and soft pack and Flip-Top box.

That's why.

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There are twenty fine cigarettes in every pack of Marlboros, and there are millions of packs of Marlboros in every one of the fifty states of the Union. We, the makers of Marlboro and the sponsors of this column, hope you will try our wares soon.

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